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USSN: 09/618,537  
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Please make the following amendments to the application:

IN THE CLAIMS

Please **amend** claims 1 and 9 as shown in the Summary of the Claims, *infra*.  
Additions are underlined and deletions are struck through.

SUMMARY OF THE CLAIMS

Claim 1 (currently amended). An image processing apparatus provided with a capability of carrying out variable magnification of image data, comprising:

a single first-in, first-out memory for carrying out write/read processing of image data;

an enlarging variable magnification unit for carrying out variable-magnification processing following write processing and read processing of image data to and from the first-in, first-out memory during image enlargement; and

a reducing variable magnification unit for writing image data to the first-in, first-out memory after variable-magnification is carried out during image reduction,

wherein variable magnification processing is carried out independently in a scan direction and a cross-scan direction.

Claims 2-8 (canceled).

Claim 9 (currently amended). An image processing apparatus provided with a capability of carrying out variable magnification of image data, comprising:

a line memory for storing one line worth of image data;

a plurality of image forming means;

a plurality of output lines for connecting the line memory and the plurality of image forming means;

a plurality of switching means for turning the plurality of output lines on or off individually; and

a variable-magnification processing means for increasing and decreasing the number of times to turn on the switching means in correspondence to magnification ratio, wherein variable magnification processing is carried out independently in a scan direction and a cross-scan direction.